

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1: (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of catalyst particles ~~with a particle diameter in the range of 20 to less than 1000 microns, which process comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

- a) agitating at least two dry catalyst ingredients within an agitation container, wherein the dry catalyst ingredients have less than 90% of their pore volume filled with water,
- b) spraying a liquid binding agent on the catalyst ingredients while continuing the agitation, drying the catalyst ingredients at a temperature in the range of 100 to 200°C within the agitation container, allowing the catalyst ingredients to agglomerate to form catalyst particles within the agitation container, wherein the catalyst particles have a particle diameter in the range of 20 to less than 1000 microns, and
- ~~c) isolating formed catalyst particles with the desired particle diameter and comprising the catalyst ingredients, and~~
- d optionally calcining the isolated catalyst particles.

2. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein agitation is performed by high-shear mixing.

3. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein agitation is performed by fluidization.

4. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the catalyst ingredients is alumina, clay, or zeolite.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the liquid binding agent is selected from the group consisting of water, an aqueous acidic solution, a silicon-containing solution or suspension, a suspension comprising aluminum chlorohydrate and/or aluminum nitrohydrate, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) The process of Claim 2 wherein the shear rate applied on the catalyst ingredients during high-shear mixing ranges from 250 to 100 s⁻¹.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (New) The process of Claim 3, wherein the fluidization gas velocity corresponds to the minimum fluidization velocity for particles having a particle diameter in the range of 20 to less than 2000 microns.

12. (New) The process of Claim 11, wherein the fluidization gas velocity corresponds to the minimum fluidization velocity for particles having a particle diameter in the range of 30 to less than 100 microns.

13. (New) The process of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the catalyst ingredients is alumina, clay, or zeolite.

14. (New) The process of Claim 13, wherein the liquid binding agent binds the catalyst ingredients as they are dried.

15. (New) The process of Claim 14, wherein the liquid binding agent is a suspension comprising aluminum chlorohydrol, aluminum nitrohydrol, or mixtures thereof.

16. (New) The process of Claim 11, wherein calcination occurs within the agitation container.